

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF SARA STEINHAUER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sara Steinhauer of Douglassville, Berks County, Pennsylvania in recognition of her 105th birthday.

Born near Skippack, Montgomery County on March 25th, 1906, Sara grew up on a farm in Skippack Township and attended public school through 10th grade in a one-room schoolhouse. When she turned 19, Sara moved to Perkase, Pennsylvania to begin her career as a seamstress with Wemen's Apparel, developing skills in ladies' fashion. She was later promoted to the position of floor lady which she maintained until her retirement in 1968.

The eighth of thirteen children, Sara was blessed with twelve brothers and sisters. Her husband, George D. Steinhauer, passed in 1984 after 57 happy years of marriage. Before moving to the distinctive retirement community of Villa at Morlatton, Sara lived in Telford, Pennsylvania for many of her retirement years and then an apartment in Pottstown, Pennsylvania near her nephew Leroy Fitzgerald.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Sara Steinhauer on the occasion of her 105th birthday and extending her best wishes for continued health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to cast votes on the evening of March 29, 2011.

On rollcall 194, I would have voted no.

On rollcall 195 I would have voted aye.

On rollcall 196 I would have voted aye.

On rollcall 197, the motion to recommit, I would have voted aye.

On rollcall 198, final passage, I would have voted aye.

The Making Home Affordable Program simply has not protected homeowners from foreclosure, or ensured that mortgage servicers work with homeowners in good faith to achieve loss mitigation that works for homeowners, investors and our communities. Despite clear and repeated calls for reform of the program from the Congressional Oversight Panel, the Special Inspector General for the TARP, and the GAO, changes to the program have been too little and too late. While my constituents and homeowners across the country continue to struggle through good faith efforts to keep their homes, banks are again making record profits and paying large bonuses to their executives and employees.

Despite well documented abuses of homeowners by mortgage servicers participating in the HAMP, no servicers have been sanctioned or fined for violations of HAMP program requirements, despite clear authority to do so. I do not take this position lightly, particularly in light of the fact that no alternative program to help homeowners is offered. However I simply cannot continue to offer support for a program that has protected banks and servicers at the expense of my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall votes 192 and 193. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 192 and "no" on rollcall 193.

A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR WOMEN VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced important legislation to establish a women veterans bill of rights, H.R. 809.

There are now 1.8 million women veterans, and the number of these women turning to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for treatment and services is increasing every day. In fact, current VA estimates project that the percentage of women among the total number of veterans enrolled in the VA health care system will have risen to 10 percent by 2018, up from 7.7 percent now.

Mr. Speaker, men have long been the dominant stakeholder within VA, but it is past time that VA recognizes women veterans as an equally important stakeholder.

During hearings and roundtables over the past Congresses, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has asked women veterans to come forward with their own stories about their experiences with VA. From their accounts, it is clear that while VA has made some strides in caring for women, significant gaps remain.

The veterans testifying before the Committee have told us of an unwelcoming culture within some VA facilities that makes women veterans feel alienated, disrespected, and reluctant to pursue the benefits and services that they have earned with their sacrifices.

VA must recognize and be equipped to treat the unique medical concerns that women veterans have. They must respect privacy concerns and eliminate cultural insensitivity that may otherwise bar women from accessing VA health care and they must ensure that women and male veterans are always treated equally

in their ability to secure quality VA benefits and services.

This legislation would take us closer to achieving that long overdue standard.

H.R. 809 would require VA to display in all of their facilities, 24 fundamental principles governing their treatment of women veterans. Veterans who may have felt isolated and unwelcome in VA facilities before will be able to read these principles and understand VA's responsibility to them.

The principles lay out women veterans' right to state-of-the-art medical technologies and procedures for treating their unique medical concerns, VA's responsibility to provide vigorous outreach to inform women of the VA benefits and services they are entitled to, and other important guidelines for what women veterans can and should expect of VA.

Above all, the principles make clear that VA must always treat women veterans as they should treat any veteran, with sensitivity to their unique concerns and the dignity that their service to this country demands.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEENAN MONKS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to acknowledge the accomplishments of Keenan Monks of Hazleton, who recently placed sixth in the 2011 Intel Science Talent Search, a national competition for high school seniors with exceptional promise in math and science.

To earn sixth place, Keenan conducted research on a math equation that can help improve Internet security and cryptography. His work distinguished him from most of the 1,744 high school seniors who entered the talent search. In January, he was named one of 300 semifinalists, then he was chosen to be a finalist and compete here in Washington just a few weeks ago.

Keenan is a 17-year-old student at Hazleton Area High School. He is captain of the cross-country and track and field teams. Keenan has been playing the piano for 12 years. He has won several piano competitions, has performed at Carnegie Hall, and enjoys sequencing music. Keenan has volunteered with the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, helping remove trash from community roadways. Keenan also coauthored a paper published in Discrete Mathematics.

Mr. Speaker, Keenan Monks is an extraordinary young man. He is a hard worker. He has an innovative mind and an eager spirit. He will no doubt continue to be a bright star in our community. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Keenan Monks of Hazleton for winning sixth place in this year's Intel Science Talent Search.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARC
CATALANO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Police Commander Marc Catalano for 31 years of service to the City of San Bruno.

He joined the San Bruno Police Department on June 1, 1979 and spent his first two years as a community service officer. He served as a patrol officer from 1981 to 1984, a detective from 1984 to 1985, a field training officer from 1985 to 1997, an acting sergeant from 1990 to 1991 and again a detective from 1991 to 1994. In 1994 he became involved with D.A.R.E., the Drug Abuse Resistance Education, and was instrumental in expanding that program from elementary schools to middle schools and high schools.

In 1997 Mr. Catalano was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and four years later to the rank of Lieutenant Sergeant. In 2001 he received his final promotion to Commander.

Marc Catalano is a true Bay Area native, born in San Francisco and raised in San Bruno and Burlingame. He graduated from Mills High School and received an Associate Degree from the College of San Mateo. At Notre Dame de Namur University he earned his Baccalaureate Degree in Human Services.

Commander Catalano is anything but complacent; he always thrives to learn more and better himself. He attained advanced supervisory and management certificates from the State of California, the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, and awards from the San Mateo County Trial Lawyers Association and from MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

In addition to a law enforcement career, Marc Catalano is the loving husband to his wife Laurie, his wife of 26 years. The couple has two daughters Danielle and Lindsay.

Mr. Speaker, it is right to honor Commander Catalano for his 31 years of service to the San Bruno Police Department on December 27, 2010, the day of his retirement.

HONORING FORMER GUAM COM-
MISSIONER JOSE ESPINOSA
SANTOS

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Jose Espinosa Santos, former Commissioner of the Guam villages of Mongmong-Toto-Maite. Mr. Santos passed away at the age of 77 on March 9, 2011 at Parkview Community Hospital in Riverside, California.

Mr. Santos was born in Guam on June 23, 1933 to Tomas Taitano and Joaquina Mata Espinosa Santos. In 1973, he was elected to serve as Commissioner for the villages of Mongmong-Toto-Maite, in Guam. After serving for four years as Commissioner, Mr. Santos continued to serve Guam in several capacities within the Mayors' Council of Guam, including Special Assistant to the Chief Commissioner,

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Chief Executive Officer, and Executive Director. In addition to his public service, Mr. Espinosa was also active in the Catholic Community as an ordained Deacon for the Archdiocese of Agaña at the Dulce Nombre De Maria Cathedral-Basilica.

I join our community in mourning the loss of Jose Espinosa Santos, and I offer my condolences to his wife, Pilar Rosario Cepeda Santos, his 10 children, 27 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, and his many families, friends, and loved ones. May God bless the family and friends of Jose Espinosa Santos, God bless Guam, and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MS. MELANIE PE-
TERS AS THE 2011 HURLBURT
AFA CHAPTER 398 ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Melanie Peters as the 2011 Hurlburt AFA Chapter 398 Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Ms. Peters is an inspiration to her students and colleagues, and I am honored to recognize her achievements.

Successfully getting a class of kindergarteners to construct and fly Styrofoam planes to test Bernoulli's Principle is an accomplishment worthy of recognition in itself. Ms. Peters surpassed this feat and also taught her five- and six-year olds about rocket propulsion using balloons.

Her creative techniques coupled with her passion for flight continues to provide an enjoyable and unique learning experience for her fourth graders. In her classroom, also known as TOP FUN, Ms. Peters incorporates math, science, and technology into her student's curriculum by utilizing her knowledge of aviation. TOP FUN's doors open into a world where students learn that living and learning coexist as a combined adventure.

Through her hard work and dedication, Melanie Peters continues to provide her students a solid foundation, upon which her students are able to grow, as their love for learning continues to soar. Teaching, a love Melanie credits to her mother, comes naturally to her, and is evidenced in the positive impact she has made on the lives of her students.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Ms. Peters for this great achievement and her commitment to excellence. Ms. Peters has earned the title of Elementary School Teacher of the Year. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Melanie Peters, and we wish her continued success.

THE HAMP TERMINATION ACT OF
2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 839) to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide new assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program, while preserving assistance to homeowners who were already extended an offer to participate in the Program, either on a trial or permanent basis:

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the HAMP Termination Act, or H.R. 839, a bill to eliminate the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP). This is just another attempt by my Republican colleagues to do away with important and necessary programs that help our struggling families and communities cope with the devastation of the housing crisis. Our families are dealing with real emergencies and they want real solutions, yet the Republicans offer no meaningful replacement to help families during this housing and foreclosure epidemic.

The Home Affordable Modification Program was put in place by the Obama Administration to provide critical assistance to American homeowners who are working tirelessly to save their homes. While it wasn't meant to save every home on the brink of foreclosure, this program has helped over 600,000 homeowners since it was first launched. This means that because of HAMP, over 600,000 families were given an opportunity they otherwise wouldn't have had to save their home. Approximately 30,000 homeowners are assisted through HAMP each month. If we eliminate this program now, we would be doing a great disservice to these homeowners and to the recovery of our fragile housing market.

The ineptitude and noncompliance of banks and mortgage servicers have created a laundry list of mistakes and missteps in handling homeowner mortgages that led us into this devastating housing situation. HAMP has been criticized by all parties because it did not meet its initial projected goals. This is partly because HAMP sets strict requirements for homeowners to qualify for a modification to ensure that American taxpayer dollars are not wasted or misused. Modifications that continue to be made outside of HAMP are done by servicers who avoid meeting the strict requirements and rules under this program which are put in place to protect homeowners. We have a responsibility to our constituents and we can't simply leave the fate of homeowners and struggling families to the banks and mortgage servicers when their bad mortgage lending practices contributed to our nation's housing crisis in the first place.

HAMP is not perfect, but there is no question that HAMP has provided critical assistance to homeowners facing avoidable foreclosures. The HAMP program has set affordability standards and, more importantly, this program has created a framework for the private sector to provide assistance. The political theater put together by my Republican colleagues to eliminate HAMP and other valuable housing programs and replace them with nothing, doesn't do anything to alleviate the dire circumstances hundreds of thousands of American families are facing today.

Mr. Chair, ending HAMP now would undoubtedly hamper our nation's economic recovery efforts. Many of my colleagues have mentioned throughout this debate something we all know to be true: not a single witness—including the Government Accountability Office and the Special Inspector General for the